

We claim:

1. A method of inducing paraptotic cell death in a cell comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of ceramide, Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF), caspase-7, caspase-8,  $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole proprionic acid (AMPA), kainic acid and glutamic acid, wherein said effective amount of said compound induces paraptotic death of said cell.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said paraptotic cell death is induced in a mammal.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said mammal is a human.
4. A method of inhibiting paraptotic cell death in a cell comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of Alg-2-interacting protein 1 (AIP-1), Jun N-terminal kinase 1 (JNK1) neutralizing agent, Jun N-terminal kinase 2 (JNK2) neutralizing agent, TNF Receptor-Associated Factor 2 (TRAF2) neutralizing agent, ortho-phenanthroline and the JNK inhibitor SP 600125, wherein said effective amount of said compound inhibits paraptotic death of said cell.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said paraptotic cell death is inhibited in a mammal.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said mammal is a human.

7. A method of treating a condition associated with excessive cell accumulation comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of ceramide, Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF), caspase-7, caspase-8,  $\alpha$ -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole proppionic acid (AMPA), kainic acid and glutamic acid, wherein said effective amount of said compound induces paraptotic cell death.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said compound is part of a combination therapy that further comprises an effective amount of a compound known to induce apoptotic cell death.

9. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein said condition is a neoplastic condition.

10. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein said condition is an autoimmune condition.

11. A method of treating a condition associated with excessive cell death comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of Alg-2-interacting protein 1 (AIP-1), Jun N-terminal kinase 1 (JNK1) neutralizing agent, Jun N-terminal kinase 2 (JNK2) neutralizing agent, TNF Receptor-Associated Factor 2 (TRAF2) neutralizing agent, ortho-phenanthroline and the JNK inhibitor SP 600125, wherein said effective amount of said compound inhibits paraptotic cell death.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said compound is part of a combination therapy that further comprises an effective amount of a compound known to inhibit apoptotic cell death.

5 13. The method of claim 11 or 12, wherein said condition is an ischemic condition.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said ischemic condition is a stroke.

10 15. The method of claim 13, wherein said ischemic condition is a myocardial infarction.

16. The method of claim 11 or 12, wherein said condition is a neurodegenerative condition.

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